

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01

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R 221746Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8501

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09723

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: NCNA LISTING IN USIS PRESS CORRESPONDENTS BOOK

REF: A) STATE 23516; B) PARIS 3277

1. SUMMARY: PRC OBJECTS TO LISTING OF PRC
CORRESPONDENTS IN PARIS IN USIS-PREPARED DIRECTORY
IF GRC CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE IS ALSO
INCLUDED. WE RECOMMEND WE INCLUDE PRC JOURNALISTS --
AS WELL AS CNA REP -- AND ARGUE THAT PUBLICATION IS
NOT OFFICIAL. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE
INCLUDING AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLAIN US DECISION TO
PRC EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF NEW EDITION OF USIS
"DIRECTORY OF CORRESPONDENTS" IN PARIS, LOCAL EMPLOYEE
CONTACTED TS'AI FANG-PAI (THIRD SECRETARY IN PRC
EMBASSY HANDLING PRESS RELATIONS) FOR NAME OF NCNA
AND OTHER CORRESPONDENTS WHO SHOULD BE LISTED. TS'AI
TOLD HER PRC EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED EXISTING
DIRECTORY AND EARLIER USIS WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SUCH
INFORMATION, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT GRC CENTRAL NEWS
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AGENCY (CNA) CORRESPONDENT WAS LISTED. (1972 EDITION

INDEED INCLUDES CNA CORRESPONDENT, BUT NO PRC JOURNALIST.) PRC COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH LISTING UNDER "CHINA." PRC WOULD NOT FAVOR INCLUSION OF PRC CORRESPONDENTS IN DIRECTORY IF CNA LISTING MAINTAINED.

3. TS'AI SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED USUAL EMBOFF CONTACT APRIL 22 TO REITERATE PRC EMBASSY POSITION: IF "CHIANG KAI-SHEK CLIQUE REPRESENTATIVE" NOT INCLUDED IN DIRECTORY, PRC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO LISTING OF NCNA AND OTHER PRC CORRESPONDENTS. PRC WOULD OBJECT TO LISTING OF ITS CORRESPONDENTS IN SAME BOOK WITH CNA REPRESENTATIVE.

4. USIS DIRECTORY IS AN UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION AND A CATEGORICAL DISCLAIMER OF US "ACCREDITATION" IS EXPLICIT IN THE PUBLICATION. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEARLY LABELED ON THE COVER AS PREPARED BY USIS. IN VIEW OF THE RATHER FORMAL PRC EMBASSY POSITION AND DELICATE US/PRC RELATIONS IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE PRESS (REF A), WE BELIEVE US DECISION SHOULD BE BASED ON CONSIDERATION OF ALL FACTORS AND NOT JUST ON LOCAL PARIS CONCERNS.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE INDEFENSIBLE TO DROP CNA LISTING. CNA REPRESENTATIVE REMAINS AN "ACCREDITED" JOURNALIST ALTHOUGH NOT INVITED TO OFFICIAL FRENCH PRESS AFFAIRS (REF B).

6. ASSUMING DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH REASONING IN PARA. 5, ONE ALTERNATIVE IS TO ACCEPT PRC EMBASSY POSITION AND NOT INCLUDE PRC CORRESPONDENTS. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO REJECT PRC EMBASSY POSITION AND LIST NCNA AND OTHER PRC CORRESPONDENTS (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION DERIVED FROM OTHER THAN PRC EMBASSY SOURCES) AND TO ARGUE THAT PUBLICATION IS IN NO WAY OFFICIAL, AND IS PURELY FOR INFORMAL ASSISTANCE TO JOURNALISTS. LISTING OF BOTH CNA AND NCNA IN NO WAY INDICATES ANY US OFFICIAL POSITION TOWARD PRC OR GRC OR THEIR CORRESPONDENTS.

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7. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ANTICIPATED PRC REJECTION OF OUR REASONING, EMBASSY AND USIS RECOMMEND THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE. SINCE THE MATTER OBVIOUSLY HAS RAMIFICATIONS WHICH GO FAR BEYOND THE PARIS SCENE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE POSITIVE WASHINGTON ENDORSEMENT OF THE POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE. WE RECOMMEND THAT PRC EMBASSY BE INFORMED OF ACTION USG INTENDS TO TAKE.

IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALISTS, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, BOOKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS09723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740094-0209
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740424/aaaaavmq.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 23516; B) PARIS 3277
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NCNA LISTING IN USIS PRESS CORRESPONDENTS BOOK
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005